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This hacking and bending and slashing of the surrounding vegetation becomes unconscious, and natives usually continue the practise unthinkingly even when travelling on a well marked trail. If another man later follows a trail thus blazed, he cuts and slashes as he goes along, thus opening the pathway, and is followed by others doing the same until a trail which has come into general use, such as that from Towakaima to Kurewa, is a well worn footway averaging about two feet in width through the undergrowth. 487

A number of signs are used to inform members of the party following at a distance of the movements of the advance section. Thus, when a branching of the trails is met, the leader cuts a fresh sapling so that it falls across the branch of the path which he is not taking. The followers then know that they are to take the open path. Another method is to set up a cross or a pointer which is made of an upright stick set in the ground at the meeting of two paths. The upper part of the stick is split, and into the fork is set a transverse splinter pointing in the direction which is to be followed. In addition, followers look for freshly broken saplings and freshly slashed tree trunks along the path. When approaching a settlement, strangers always stop at the edge of the house clearing and strike loudly with their cutlasses on the base of a mora tree. The mora has a trunk which gives forth a resounding boom when struck, and thus announces the advent of strangers to the residents. The visitors wait until some person in authority has bid them enter. On coming into a strange settlement it is bad form to look about until one has been properly welcomed by the host. The eyes are kept on the ground until one has had a drink of cassiri and a smoke. When leaving, it is bad luck to look back or to return for something forgotten. 576

The Caribs wear no foot covering, a usage which enables them to maintain a footing in places where it is often difficult for a shod traveller to keep his balance. In the deep forest the trails are usually wet, due to the frequent rains and lack of sunlight amid the foliage. The surface underfoot is covered with slime and soaked leaves, the bushes and trees which hang over the trail continually drip moisture, slippery roots of trees twine across the trail, and logs and fallen limbs must be continually climbed over or crawled under. Advantage is taken of all fallen logs which lie in the direc- 481 ●

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481 tion of the line of march, and it is not infrequent for a trail to be carried for several hundred yards from one fallen log to another (Plate 26, *a*). Shallow streams are usually waded, but deeper streams and the river are more often crossed on logs which have fallen across the water.

482 Loads are generally carried in the walishas, or carrying baskets, which have been described in our chapter on basketry. The hammock and a few cakes of cassava bread are tucked into a corner of the walisha, and armed with his cutlass and bow or gun a man is ready for a journey of almost any length with a good load on his back. A party must of course always travel single file, and the eyes must be kept on the ground, in order to watch the footing and to beware of snakes and dangerous insects. If a snake is met on the trail, and this is a frequent occurrence since the reptiles apparently enjoy sunning themselves in the spots of sunlight, which are more often found on the trail, one cuts a long stick, and with it throws the snake into the bush without killing it. It is considered dangerous to slash the snake's head off with the cutlass, because, it is said, the severed head frequently flies off and fastens its jaws into an arm or a leg with unhappy results.

484 [825]

[562] A man going on a long journey usually prefers to take his wife and children with him. In such a case each one of the travelers, except children in arms, carries a load. I, however, saw no cases of the celebrated Indian custom which decrees that the wife shall carry all the load while the husband stalks majestically, unhampered, in the van.

[825] The Indians are admirable trackers, both of animals and humans. On many occasions I have verified the uncanny ability of the natives to ascertain from footprints, which to me were hardly visible, the species of animal which had passed by, and often the individual human beings. The Indians make a close study of people's feet, and can often tell by examining the foot prints who has passed over a trail.

501 824 **Water Transport.** Two types of craft are used in water transport, the korial and the woodskin. The korial (Carib, koriara) is a dugout canoe, the hull of which is made from a single log of wood. Konta wood (known to creoles also as counter and silverbelly) and sorodani are considered the best materials for making a korial, as they do not sink and are not so soft that they are easily